



NIH Environmental Management System

Take Action to Protect the Future



NEMS NEWS

November 2010



“THE GREEN SPOTLIGHT”

*Each month we will spotlight an employee
or topic of interest at the NIH.*

This month the NEMS News is spotlighting the NIH Chemical Bottle Recycling Program.

Were you aware that almost all of your empty glass, aluminum and plastic chemical bottles in the lab can be recycled? This includes all containers that previously contained chemicals (liquid or solid), buffer or saline solutions, and other miscellaneous products. These bottles can be collected for recycling by contacting the NIH Chemical Waste Services (CWS) contractor at 301-496-4710. The CWS contractor can also deliver plastic totes (shown to the left and below) that may be used to accumulate numerous empties to minimize the number of collection requests. All empty bottles and totes are to be stored in the labs, not in the aisles or in hallways. Empty containers that previously contained infectious or radioactive material will not be accepted and should be disposed of according to the NIH Waste Disposal Guide. You can also contact the Division of Environmental Protection at 301-496-7990 if you have any questions about this recycling program.

Some of the benefits of recycling plastic and glass are:

- Recycled plastic can be made into plastic lumber which is more durable than wood-based lumber
- Recycling reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Glass never wears out and it can be recycled forever
- The plastic recycling business creates over 200,000 jobs in the U.S.



The Largest size tote
30 gallon capacity



The medium size tote
20 gallon capacity



The small size grey tote
17 gallon capacity



**The small green
upright tote**
14 gallon capacity

For more information:

www.nems.nih.gov

POINTS OF CONTACT:

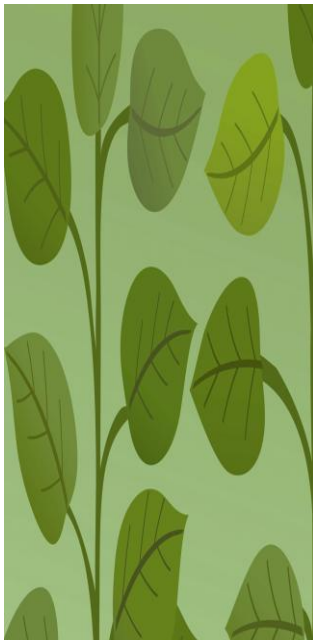
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NEMS NEWS

Green Tips for the Holidays:

- 1) When gifting, go green: Go green and get back some green with your gift-wrapping by reusing paper products you may already have around the house, like newspaper and even left-over wall paper. According to the Clean Air Council, in the U.S. alone, four million tons of waste is generated during the holidays from wrapping paper and shopping bags.
- 2) Buy energy saving holiday lights: You can decorate your house with LED lights that use 90 percent less energy than conventional holiday lights, and can save your family up to \$50 on your energy bills during the holiday season! LED lights are available at many major retailers.
- 3) Donate your time or money to an Environmental Group: Get into the holiday spirit by volunteering! There are countless ways to help improve your community – and the planet – from cleaning up a local river to helping inner city kids experience the outdoors for the first time. You can also give a family membership to the local zoo which will include free entry and parking.
- 4) Not everything has to be bought. Why not go back in time and give home baked cookies in festive tins that can be used over and over. Create an online photo album to share with family and friends. Make a meal and invite friends and family to share and watch a movie together or play games. Not everything has to be bought to enjoy it.

Be safe and happy and look for more tips in next month's newsletter.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

America Recycles Day

Monday November 15, 2010

Green Team Leads Council Meeting

Wednesday November 17, 1:00-3:00
Bldg 31/6C Room 10

Sustainable Labs Working Group

Monday November 22, 1:30-2:30
Bldg 31/6C Room 10

